

## Message Text

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22

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CU-02 /081 W

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R 241257Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9664

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PEKING

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 8006

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, TW, AU

SUBJ: PRC DEMARCHES OVER PROJECTED APPEARANCE OF TAIWAN OPERA COMPANY  
IN AUSTRIA

REF: COPENHAGEN 3128

1. NEAR BACK-TO-BACK SCHEDULED APPEARANCE IN VIENNA OF OPERA  
COMPANIES FROM PEKING AND TAIWAN HAS RESULTED IN SERIES OF  
PRC PROTESTS IN RECENT DAYS TO GOA, BOTH IN VIENNA  
AND PEKING. PEKING OPERA COMPANY, FEATURING RED WOMEN'S  
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BRIGADE BALLET, WILL BE IN VIENNA SEPTEMBER 28 -

OCTOBER 2 WHILE PEKING OPERA COMPANY IN EXILE ON TAIWAN, ACCORDING TO VIENNA PRESS REPORTS, WILL PRESENT CLASSICAL CHINESE REPERTOIRE GOING BACK 3,000 YEARS IN VIENNA AND PROVINCES DURING PERIOD OCTOBER 9-15.

2. ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGEABLE MFA SOURCE, PRC PROTEST, MADE AT OFFICE DIRECTOR AND ACTING FONMIN LEVELS IN VIENNA AND AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL IN PEKING, ACCUSED AUSTRIA OF ENGAGING IN "UNFRIENDLY AND PROVOCATIVE ACT" BY ISSUING VISAS TO TAIWAN COMPANY, A MOVE INTERPRETED BY PRC OFFICIALS AS ADOPTION BY AUSTRIA OF THEORY OF TWO CHINAS. PRC DEMARCHE ALSO CITED ACTION OF EC-9 IN DENYING ENTRY VISAS TO TAIWANESE COMPANY AND ASKED WHY AUSTRIA DID NOT FOLLOW PRACTICE OF NUMBER OF OTHER WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

3. AUSTRIAN RESPONSE WAS THAT AUSTRIA IS DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY WITH FULL RANGE OF HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS, THAT ARTISTIC, CULTURAL PERFORMANCES, IF NOT IN VIOLATION OF LAW, CANNOT BE BANNED; AND THAT ANY ATTEMPT BY GOA AT PRIOR CENSORSHIP OF PERFORMANCE WOULD BE IN VIOLATION OF CONSTITUTION. AUSTRIANS REMINDED PRC REPRESENTATIVES THAT AUSTRIA HAS NEVER RECOGNIZED NOR MAINTAINED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN AS CHINESE GOVERNMENT. AS ACCOMMODATION TO PRC, TAIWAN OPERA COMPANY HAS BEEN TOLD THAT PERFORMANCES ARE TO BE STRICTLY DEVOID OF ANY POLITICAL CONTENT (NATIONAL CHINESE FLAGS, SIGNS, PROGRAM, ETC.).

4. COMMENT: GOA IS SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED OVER "COINCIDENCE" IN TIMING OF PRESENCE OF TWO OPERA COMPANIES IN AUSTRIA AND IS DOWNPLAYING SIGNIFICANCE OF WHAT TERMED PRC INTERCESSIONS, NOT PROTESTS, OVER AUSTRIAN VISA ISSUANCE TO TAIWAN OPERA COMPANY. AUSTRIAN STANCE ACCORDS WITH GENERAL AUSTRIAN POLICY ON FREE AND OPEN CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH ALL PEOPLES AND NATIONS. MFA ANTICIPATES FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS FROM PRC ON SUBJECT AND IS BIT NERVOUS OVER ANTAGONIZING DISTANT GIANT IN ASIA, PARTICULARLY SINCE EC-9, OFTEN POLITICAL WEATHER VANE FOR AUSTRIAN ACTION  
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IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS FIELD, OPTED TO DENY ENTRY OF TAIWAN OPERA COMPANY. AS GESTURE OF GOODWILL MFA IS MAKING SPECIAL EFFORT TO ASSURE SUBSTANTIAL OFFICIAL ATTENDANCE AT SEPTEMBER 28 PREMIERE PERFORMANCE WHICH PRC EMBASSY HERE HAS NOW TURNED INTO NATIONAL DAY EVENT BY CANCELLING USUAL NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION AT EMBASSY. BUCHANAN

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## Message Attributes

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